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XXVIII

HIS MAJESTIES Declaration

To both Houses of Parliament,
(Which He likewise recommends to the
consideration of all His loving Subjects)

In Answer to That presented to His
Newmarket, March 2. 1641.



LONDON:

Printed by ROBERT BARKER, Printer to
the Kings most Excellent Majesty: And by
the Assignes of JOHN BILL.

MDCLXI.

MAJESTIES



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the Kings most Excellent Majesty: And by
the Author.



His Majesties Declaration to both Houses of Parliament, (which He likewise recommends to the consideration of all His loving Subjects) in Answer to That presented to Him at *New-market*, March 9. 1641.

THough the Declaration lately presented to Us at *New-market*, from both Our Houses of Parliament, be of so strange a nature, in respect of what We expected (after so many Acts of Grace and Favour to Our People) and some expressions in it so different from the usuall Language to Princes; that We might well take a very long time to consider it; Yet the clearest and uprightnesse of Our Conscience to God and love to Our Subjects, hath supplied Us with a speedy Answer and Our unalterable Affection to Our People prevailed with Us, to suppress that Passions which might well enough become Us, upon such an Invitation.

We have reconsidered Our Answer of the first of this Month at *Tewkesbury*, which is urged to have given just cause of sorrow to Our Subjects. Whosoever looks over that Message (which was in effect to tell Us, That if We would not joyn with them (in an Act which We conceived might prove prejudiciall and dangerous to Us and the whole Kingdom) they would make a Law without Us, and impose it upon Our People) will not think that sudden Answer can be excepted to.

We have little encouragement to Replies of this nature, when We are told of how little value Our words are like to be with you, though they come accompanied with all the Actions of Love and Justice, (where there is room for Actions to accompany them) yet We cannot but disavow the having any such evil Counsell or Counsellors about Us, to Our knowledge, as are mentioned; and if any such be discovered, We will leave them to the censure and Judgement of Our Parliament. In the mean time, We could wish, that Our own immediate Actions which We avow, and Our own Honour might not be so roughly censured and wounded, under that common stile of Evil Counsellors.

For Our faithful and zealous affection to the true Protestant Pro-

session, and Our resolution to concur with Our Parliament in any possible course for the propagation of it, and suppression of Popery, We can say no more then We have already expressed in Our Declaration to all Our loving Subjects, published in *January* last, by the advice of Our Privie Councill, in which We endevoured to make as lively a confession of Our self, in this point, as We were able, being most assured that the constant Practice of Our Life hath been answerable therunto. And therefore We did rather expect a Testimony and Acknowledgement of such Our zeal and Pique, then those expressions We meet with in this Declaration of any designe of altering Religion in this kingdom. And We do (out of the innocency of Our soul) wish, That the Judgements of Heaven may be manifested upon those, who have, or had any such Designe.

As for the Scots troubles, We had well thought that those unhappy differences had been wrapt up in perpetual silence, by the Act of Oblivion, which being solemnly past in the Parliaments of both Kingdoms, stops Our mouth from any other Reply, then to shew Our great dislike for reviving the memory thereof.

If the Rebellion in *Ireland* (so odious to all Christians) seems to have been framed & maintained in *England*, or to have any countenance from hence, We censure both Our Houses of Parliament, and all Our loving Subjects whatsoever, to use all possible means to discover and find such out, that We may joy in the most exemplary vengeance upon them that can be imagined: But We must think Our Self highly and justly injured in Our Reputation, if any Declaration, Action, or Expression of the Irish Rebels, any Letter from Count *Rasme* to the Papists, for fasting & praying, or from *Tyffam Whitcombe*, of strange speeches uttered in *Ireland*, shall beget any jealousy, or misapprehension in Our Subjects of Our Justice, Piety and affection, it being evident to all understandings, That those mischievous and wicked Rebels, are not so capable of great advantage, as by having their false discourses so far believed, as to raise Fears and jealousies to the distraction of this kingdom, the onely way to their security: And We cannot expresse a deeper sense of the suffering of Our poor Protestant Subjects in this Kingdom, then We have done in Our often Messages to both Houses, by which We have offered, and are still ready to venture Our Royal Prison for their Redemption, well knowing, that as We are (in Our own Interest) more concerned in them, so We

are to make a strict Account to Almighty God for any neglect of Our duty, or their preservation.

For the manifold attempts to provoke Our late Army, and the Army of the *Scots*; and to raise a Faction in the City of *London* and other parts of the Kingdom; If it be said, as relating to Us, We cannot without great indignation, suffer Our Self to be reproached, to have intended the least Force or threatening to Our Parliament; as the being privie to the bringing up of the Armie would imply: Whereas We call God to witnesse, We never had any such thought, or knew of any such resolution concerning Our late Armie.

For the Petition shewed to Us by Captain *Legg*, We well remember the same, and the occasion of that Conference: Captain *Legg* being lately come out of the North, and repairing to Us at *Whitehall*, We asked him of the state of Our Army, and (after some relation made of it) he told Us, That the Commanders and Officers of the army had a minde to petition the Parliament, as others of Our people had done, and shewed Us the copy of a Petition; which We read, and finding it to be very humble, desiring the Parliament might receive no interruption in this Reformation of the Church and State, to the modell of Queen *Elizabeths* dayes; We told him, We saw no harm in it: Whereupon he replied, That he beleeved all the Officers of the Army would like it, onely he thought Sir *Jacob Asbley* would be unwilling to signe it, out of fear that it might displease Us. VVe then read the Petition over again, and then observing nothing in matter or form VVe conceived could possibly give just cause of offence; VVe delivered it to him again, bidding him give it to Sir *Jacob Asbley*, for whose satisfaction We had written C. R. upon it, to testifie Our approbation; and We wish that the Petition might be seen and published, and then We beleeve it will appear no dangerous one, nor a just ground for the least jealousy, or misapprehension.

For Master *Lewyns*, it is well known that he was gone from *Whitehall* before We received the desire of both Houses for the restraining of Our servants, neither returned he thither, or passed over by any Warrant granted by Us after that time.

For the breach of Priviledge in the Accusation of the Lord *Kymbolton*, and the five Members of the House of Commons, VVe thought VVe had given so ample satisfaction in Our severall Meetings to that purpose, that it should be no more pressed

against Us, being confident, if the breach of Priviledge had been greater then hath been ever before offered, Our acknowledgement and retraction hath been greater then ever king hath given, besides the not examining how many of Our Priviledges have been invaded in defence and vindication of the other; And therefore We hoped Our true and earnest Prostration in Our Answer to your Order concerning the *Militia*, would so far have satisfied you of Our intentions then, that you would no more have entertained any imagination of any other, designe then We there expressed.

But why the lifting of so many Officers, and entertaining them at *Whitehall* should be misconstried, We much marvell, which it is notoriously known, the tumults at *Westminster* were so great, and their demeanours so scandalous and seditious, that We had good cause to suppose Our own Person, and those of Our Wife and Children to be in apparant danger, and therefore We had great reason to appoint a Guard about Us, and to accept the dutifull tender of the servites of any of Our loving Subj:cts, which was all we did to th: Gentlemen of the Innes of Court.

For the Lord *Digby*, We assure you in the Word of a King, that he had Our Warrant to passe the Seas, and had left Our Court before We ever heard of the Vote of the House of Commons, or had any cause to imagine that his absence would have been excepted against.

What your advertisements are from *Rome*, *Venice*, *Paris*, and other parts, or what the *Popes Nuntio* sollicites the Kings of *France* or *Spain* to do, or from what persons such Informations come to you, or how the credit and reputation of such persons have been sifted and examined, We know not; but are confident, no sober honest man in Our kingdoms can beleieve, that We are so desperate or so senseless, to entertain such Designes, as would not only bury this Our Kingdom in sudden distraction and ruine, but Our own Name and Posteritie in perpetuall scorn and infamy. And therefore We could have wished, that in matters of so high and tender a nature (wherewith the mindes of Our good Subjects must needs be startled) all the expressions were so plain and easie, that nothing might stick with them with reflection upon Us, since you thought fit to publish it at all.

And having now dealt thus plainly and freely with you by way of Answer to the particular grounds of your Fears, We hope
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(upon a due consideration and weighing both together) you will not finde the Grounds to be of that moment to heget, or longer to continue a misunderstanding betwixt Us, or force you to apply your selves to the use of any other power then what the Law hath given you, the which We alwayes intend shall be the measure of Our own power, and expect it shall be the rule of Our Subjects obedience.

Concerning Our Fears and Jealousies, as We had no intention of accusing you, so are We sure no words spoken by Us (on the sudden) at *Theobalds*, will bear that interpretation. We said, for Our residence neer you, We wisht it might be so safe & Honourable, that We had no cause to absent our self from *White-hall*, and how this can be a breach of Priviledge of Parliament, We cannot understand. We explained our meaning in Our Answer at *New-market*, at the Presentation of this Declaration concerning the Printed seditious Pamphlets and Sermons, and the great tumults at *Westminster*: And We must appeal to you and all the world, whether We might not justly suppose Our self in danger of either. And if We were now at *White-hall*, what securitie have We, that the like shall not be again, especially if any Delinquents of that nature have been apprehended by the Ministers of justice, and been rescued by the People, and so as yet escape unpunished? If you have not been informed of the seditious words used in, and the circumstances of those Tumults, and will appoint some way for the examination of them, We will require some of Our learned Councell to attend with such evidence as may satisfie you, and till that be done, or some other course taken for Our security, you cannot (with reason) wonder that We intend not to be where We most desire to be.

And can there yet want evidence of Our hearty and importunate desire to joyn with Our Parliament, and all Our faithfull Subjects, in defence of the Religion and publike good of the Kingdom? Have We given you no other earnest but words, to secure you of those desires? The very Remonstrance of the House of Commons (published in *November* last) of the state of the kingdom, allows Us a more reall testimony of Our good Affections then words: that Remonstrance valued Our Acts of Grace and justice at so high a rate, that it declared the Kingdom to be then a gainer, though it had charged it self by Bills of Subsidies and Pol-money, with the leavy of 600000 pounds, besides the contracting of a Debt to Our Scots Subjects of 220000 pounds.

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Are the Bills for the Triennial Parliament, For relinquishing Our Title of Imposing upon Merchandize, and power of Pressing of Souldiers, For the taking away the Star Chamber, and high Commission Courts, For the Regulating the Councell Table, but words? Are the Bills for the Forests, The Stannery Courts, The Clerk of the Market, and the taking away the Votes of Bishops out of the Lords House, but words? Lastly, what greater earnest of Our trust and reliance on Our Parliament could or can We give, then the passing of the Bill for the continuance of this present Parliament? The length of which We hope will never alter the nature of Parliaments, and the Constitution of this Kingdom, or invite Our Subjects so much to abuse Our Confidence, as to esteem any thing fit for this Parliament to do, which were not, if it were in Our power to dissolve it to morrow. And after all these, and many other Acts of Grace on Our part (that We might be sure of a perfect Reconciliation betwixt Us and all Our Subjects) We have offered, and are still ready to grant a free and general Pardon, as ample as your selves shall think fit. Now if there be not real expressions of the Affections of Our Soul, for the public good of Our Kingdom, We must confesse that We want skill to manifest them.

To conclude (although We think Our Answer already full to that point) concerning Our Return to *London*: We are willing to Declare, that VVe look upon it as a matter of so great weight, as with reference to the Affairs of this Kingdom, and to Our own inclinations and desires, that if all We can say, or do, can raise a mutual Confidence (the onely way with Gods blessing to make Us all happy) and by your encouragement the Laws of the Land, and the Government of the City of *London*, may recover some life for Our Security, VVe will overtake your desires, and be as soon with you as you can wish. And in the mean time, We will be sure, that neither the businesse of *Ireland*, or any other advantage for this Kingdom shall suffer through Our default, or by Our absence: We being so far from repenting the Acts of Our Justice, and Grace, which We have already performed to Our People, that We shall with the same Alacrity, be still ready to add such new Ones, as may best advance the Peace, Honour, and Prosperity of this Nation.